

Application Number: 10/613,572
Art Unit 3711

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CLAIM REJECTIONS

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The claims have been amended to reflect the triangular nature of the stripes on the front of the board, which none of the prior art references provide, disclosure or suggest. This provides a vanishing point towards the goals and increased accuracy for the player.

A. Duganich

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 9-10 in view of Duganich. The Figure that examiner uses as the basis for providing that there is a strip (41 and 42) is misleading. Specifically, "stripe" (41 and 42) is in fact not a stripe. Rather, with reference to Figure 2, it is clear that there are in fact support structures attached to the back of the board. This is in direct contradiction to the present invention which provides stripes on the front of the board. The functionality of bar protruding at an angle would be in direct contradiction because the strip on the front would move according to the angle of the player. This is because, referring to Fig. 6, the bars (41 and 42) extend at angle away from the board. The claims, as amended reflect that the stripe is triangular.

B. Phelps

The claims have been amended to reflect the triangular nature of the stripe. This is of significance because it provides a vanishing point for the player, which provides the player with increased shooting accuracy. Phelps provides a semicircular design which makes the backboard look like a basketball. This would in fact directly teach away from the applicant invention in which the triangle provides a vanishing point into the goal.

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Claim Rejections

Please consider claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19
as amended.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, it is believed that claims 1-3 and 4-19 have been amended as to be allowable. As such, favorable consideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the event the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the attorney at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9302.

on October 5, 2005


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